

NSC BRIEFING

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THE USSR'S NEW "ECONOMIC REGIONS"

- I. Khrushchev's Supreme Soviet speech states that 92 regional Economic Councils are to be established initially. 68 of these will be in the RSFSR, 11 in the Ukraine, and one in each of the 13 remaining Union Republics.
 - A. We do not yet know the precise boundaries of the territory which each of these Councils will control.
 - B. In the past, the USSR has been divided for planning purposes into 13 major economic regions.
 1. These economic planning regions had little actual importance and no administrative functions.
 2. They are not comparable to the divisions proposed in Khrushchev's speech.
- II. The new "economic regions" are expected to be identical in boundaries, for the most part, with the present administrative districts of the USSR (although some of these administrative districts will be combined).
 - A. At present, the RSFSR's administrative divisions total 90, as follows:

6 krais
52 oblasti
14 autonomous republics
7 autonomous oblasti
10 national okrugs

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Thus, the proposed revision will eliminate 22 of these administrative units, so far as economic affairs are concerned.

- B. A similar squeeze is in store for the Ukraine, which in '86 was divided into 26 oblasts.
- C. The one-for-one coverage of the economic divisions in the other 13 Union Republic envisions no change.